

Serial No. 10/044,178
Docket No. MIO 0011 N2/40509.186

Remarks

In a previous Office Action dated December 15, 2004, claims 1 through 5 were finally rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,028,990 to Kotaki et al (hereinafter the '990 patent). Claims 6 through 8 had been withdrawn earlier pursuant to an August 25, 2004 election of species requirement. Applicant requests that previously withdrawn claims 6-8 be cancelled.

During a telephone interview held between the undersigned and the Examiner on January 24, 2005, the undersigned proposed a series of amendments to the rejected claims. The Examiner indicated that while such amendments would distinguish over the '990 patent, he would not enter them because an additional search would be required. The amendments presented above were first discussed during that interview, yet were inadvertently left off a subsequently-filed Request For Continued Examination (RCE) that was filed on January 26, 2005. Accordingly, the present Office Action (with a mailing date of March 15, 2005) was the same as the December 15, 2004 Office Action. The amendments first proposed in the January 24, 2005 telephone interview now form the basis for the present response.

Claims 1 through 4 have been amended to more precisely recite the nature of a storage container structure's container region and the relationship of that region to a patterning stop region. The Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are patentable over the cited art, and are entitled to a finding of allowability by the Examiner. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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